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EDITORIAL NOTES

MEETING OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.

The Forty-Seventh General Assembly of the State of Illinois began its session on January 4, 1911.

A Speaker and other officers were elected promptly and the biennial message of Governor Deneen was received.

In the message the Governor calls the attention of the Legislature to the work which has been done by the various departments of the State and their needs and future possibilities, and suggests and advises legislation to meet these needs.

The message proper closes with a recommendation that the State of Illinois unite with the State of Kentucky in preparing and suitably marking a road from the birthplace of Abraham Lincoln near Hodgenville, Kentucky, to his later home and his last resting place in Springfield, Illinois. Governor Deneen makes an eloquent appeal for this memorial, which is to be known as "The Lincoln Way." He gives in beautiful language the reasons and precedents for such a memorial, and he closes the message as follows:

"Accordingly, I recommend that the Legislature take suitable action, naming the route 'The Lincoln Way,' and directing the State Historical Society to make the necessary investigations to determine the exact route traveled by Lincoln in his removal from Kentucky to Illinois, and empowering and directing the State Highway Commission to erect such markers and suitable signs as may

be necessary to mark the way in a prominent and permanent manner."

The Historical Society highly appreciates the mark of appreciation of its labors given it by the Governor in the message and will gladly accept the privilege and duty which he suggests if the Legislature acts favorably upon this beautiful and patriotic recommendation.

The entire message of the Governor should be read by each citizen of the State, as it furnishes in a condensed form a history of the important activities of the State and gives an idea of its great power and resources.

The *Journal* extends a cordial invitation to the members of the Legislature, now in session, to visit the Illinois State Historical Library whenever convenient, and inspect, not only its wealth of historical collections, but also its dimly lighted, crowded and cramped condition. The Library is on the same floor with the Hall of Representatives and Senate Chamber, on the central front of the State House, in the room originally designed for a State portrait gallery, and subsequently assigned to the State geological museum, but found ill-fitted and inadequate for either. When the museum was removed to the new arsenal building, in 1904, the Historical Library was permitted to become the tenant of the room vacated, moving from the small alcove room at the north end of the State Library room where it was incubated in 1889. Having here considerably more floor space than the alcove, the move was decidedly a relief and improvement. But the accessions to the historical department of the State have been so rapid that it has outgrown its present quarters, with an adjacent small room in addition, causing demand—indeed an absolute necessity—for more space, better lighted, better ventilated, and constructed with special design for the purposes of such a library as this.

The State Historical Library is, *ex officio*, the home of the Illinois State Historical Society, constituted by act of the Legislature *guardian ad litem*, as it were, of that organization; but, unable to afford it either room or material, it has, so far, given it only shelter, and the publication of its annual *Transactions*. The State Historical Society, however, tho but an incorporated body, without library, collections, property or habitation of its own, has, notwithstanding its limitations and destitution, accomplished, and is accomplishing, work of such importance as to attract the attention and profound interest, not only of our own people, but of those of every state in the Union. It has established this *Journal*, and through it quarterly and annually by its *Transactions*, is adding rich and varied contributions to the history of Illinois and the (former) Northwest. This great work, rendered by its members without compensation, is recognized as an invaluable adjunct to public education, and the basis of authentic historical literature of the State.

The State Historical Library now contains (approximately) 28,680 volumes, pamphlets, files of Illinois newspapers, a multitude of maps, unpublished manuscripts, portraits, engravings and miscellaneous historical relics. This collection is of immense value, beyond commercial estimate, as it includes much rare historical material that can not be duplicated. From it, several recent writers of American history have drawn their inspiration and facts. It is fast becoming the chief source of reference and information for writers of western history, who were heretofore compelled to seek their data in the libraries of Wisconsin, Canada and New York historical societies. It now has many of the original documents, and copies of many of the most important held in foreign archives, relating to early discoveries, Indian tribes and wars, and the social and political affairs of Illinois and the great Northwest from the days of Marquette to the present time.

The care and preservation of this library is obviously a matter of serious interest to all citizens of our State. Its continual expansion requires constant rearranging, classifying, cataloguing, indexing—and corresponding expansion of space. Illinois is a great state; in population and wealth exceeding Wisconsin and Iowa combined. Yet Wisconsin has provided a building for its historical department at an outlay of two-thirds of a million of dollars, and Iowa has expended almost half a million of dollars for a similar purpose.

The State of Illinois has outgrown its State House. Tho a spacious edifice, and when erected amply large for all departments of the State government, the judicial department, the arsenal and State Museum of Natural History, have been crowded out of it, and compelled to find more commodious quarters in extra buildings. The growth of the State Historical department is overrunning the limits assigned to it, and if retained in its present rooms must soon box up some of its collections and store them elsewhere.

The *Journal* calls the attention of the General Assembly to this condition, and respectfully urges the necessity of more room and enlarged facilities for the Historical Library—in a word, a new building commensurate with its increasing needs including also apartments suitable for all requirements of the Illinois State Historical Society.

THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

It may not be generally known that Illinois ranks third, among the states of the Union, in mineral products. The output of minerals, from its own resources, in 1907, reached the value of \$93,415,404, and with the added pro-

duction from imported material (iron and zinc), amounted to \$152,221,284. Since then the quantity of coal mined has annually greatly increased, more and diverse uses for clay have been found, and the demand for stone, for building, manufacturing cement, and soil fertilization has been very active. The existence of petroleum in Illinois was practically unknown prior to 1904, but since that date the oil-bearing sand stratas, particularly in the southeastern counties of the State, have been revealed by the drill, and the 24,540,938 barrels of coal oil extracted in 1907, rated the State as third in rank also in that production. The discovery of natural gas coincident with that of oil, has continued in unabated volume, and proved a source of very considerable revenue.

To gain a fuller knowledge of the State's economic resources and their development, and to solve the many cognate problems of vast public interest, as the reclamation of undrained lands, regulation of the water supply, improvement of certain soils, etc., and to disseminate that knowledge among the people, the Geological Survey was created by the Legislature, and organized in 1905. The President of the State University is its secretary, and the State University its headquarters. The results of its five years of activity have been of much importance. It has closely co-operated with the United States Geological Survey in surface topography and geology, the study of coal fields, collection of statistics, etc., and in other lines of investigation with the United States Agricultural Department, and the Internal Improvement and Waterways Commissions of the State.

Its work is educational, and the results of its labors (so far) have been published in a series of Bulletins for free distribution. The latest Bulletin issued, No. 15, tho limited in its scope, is of peculiar interest, not only to the scientist and political economist, but to the historian and general reader as well. Its title is "Geography of the Middle Illinois Valley," and it treats of the main physi-

ographic features of that portion of the Illinois River Valley between Hennepin and Peoria. The author, Prof. Harlan H. Barrows, also describes the Hennepin canal, and reviews the factors affecting the Deep Waterway movement.

Commencing at the beginning with a study of the underlying rocks, including the water-bearing sand stones, the coal measures, and stratas of shale and lime stones, he gives the history of the glacial period, and the many changes wrought in that area by its erosions and surface deposits, up to the cessation of outflow of the great northern lakes through the Illinois river valley, when finding a new outlet eastward to the St. Lawrence. He then details the physical forces, still in active operation, that carved out the courses of tributary streams, formed terraces and alluvial bottoms, and otherwise modified that region to its present appearance. The final chapter is devoted to the discussion of geographic conditions and events and factors exterior to it, that have influenced the development of the middle Illinois valley. Its location between the lakes and the Mississippi, with communication between the two completed by the Illinois-Michigan canal, was of the first importance. He then shows the causes for the southern portion of the State having been settled by immigrants from the south, and the northern portion by those from the latitude of New England and Ohio, the two elements meeting in the area described. And he traces the reasons actuating the early settlers to select the locations they did, and adopting their well-known pioneer methods of life. He tabulates, by diagrams, the distribution and density of population in different sections of the State by decades from 1820 to the present, and states that "Today the counties bordering the Illinois river and its continuation, the Illinois-Michigan canal, contain 51 per cent (over one-half) of the population of the State."



ARCHAEOLOGICAL PUZZLE.

Relic from an Indian grave near the bluffs in the American Bottom, east of Cahokia, St. Clair county, Ill.

- A. A small patch of white metal.
- B. Two small perforations through the plate.

He discusses at length such topics as "The Influence of the River and Canal upon Population and Products; The Decline of River and Canal Commerce; Attempts to Improve the Navigation of the Illinois River; The Railroads and the Settlement of the Great Prairies; The Development of Manufactures, Early Industries," etc., and closes with a review of the demand and reasons for a deep waterway through the Illinois valley and on southward. This Bulletin is of special interest to all students of Illinois history; and all the Bulletins of the Survey, are not only highly instructive, but of importance to every citizen engaged in industrial or commercial pursuits. Besides its value to science, the work of the Geological Survey of Illinois is of economic value to every branch of business and productive industry in the State, and should receive the earnest attention and support of the people.

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL PUZZLE.

Near the foot of the bluffs in the American Bottom, directly east of old Prairie du Pont, along the banks of the *Ruisseau Platte*, there is one of the many ancient village sites, and burying grounds of the Indians found in that interesting locality. When digging a ditch there several years ago numerous relics of the aboriginal occupants of what is now St. Clair county were unearthed, including human bones, implements and pipes of stone, and heads made of sea shells, bone, and copper. For a long time the ground there has been in cultivation, but yet the plow every season turns out fragments of human skeletons, broken pottery, pieces of flint and the usual secement of old Indian camps.

Some time ago a school boy, while prowling about that field in idle search for anything curious caught the glimpse of burnished metal among the fragmentary remains of early savage life profusely scattered over the

newly-plowed soil. Securing the object he took it to his home where, upon examination, it proved to be a work of art of a modern race, and of more recent date than that of the Stone Age. It was sent to the Illinois State Historical Society for identification, and for that purpose it is here represented, in actual size, and described, with the hope, and request, that some of the *Journal* readers will send us a solution of its several puzzling features. The metal of which it is made is either brass or bronze, and is but slightly corroded after its long burial in an Indian grave.

The first impression, that it is a common Catholic medal is, upon close inspection, not well sustained. Almost the quarter of an inch in thickness, its edges and the reverse side are plain and smoothly polished. The eye, or loop, usual at the upper end of medals, for their suspension, is absent in this; but at B, on the left of the central figure, two small holes were drilled through it, and at A a small patch of white metal seems to indicate that originally something may have been attached to the surface there with solder. In the scroll above the figure of the Madonna and Child—not discernable in the cut—is plainly seen, with other symbols, the *Fleur De Lis*, emblematic of French royalty, and conclusive of its French origin. The letters and numerals on its face, however, are unmistakably English, and are transposed, or reversed, as type are ordinarily set for printing. This strange peculiarity of the object suggests the explanation that it may have been designed—and used—for printing; or as a seal, as the impression made by it on paper or sealing wax, transforms the unintelligible word at the upper margin into plain LEITH, and the numerals 81 below the caraval become 18, as though intended for the first two figures of (1800) the last century, leaving the balance of the date blank to be supplied as required, with pen or otherwise.

But this is mere supposition. Tho undoubtedly having some religious significance, it is obviously not a medal of the class commonly issued by the Catholic church of Europe a century or two ago; yet may have served the similar office of a sacred talisman for some devout soldier or sailor.

That this strange object of European manufacture, and comparatively recent date, should be recovered from an old Indian burying ground in the American Bottom is not at all mysterious. Many instances are recorded of metal implements, utensils and ornaments—such as iron tools, copper kettles, silver crosses, glass beads, etc., brought to this country from across the Atlantic—having been found in Indian mounds as well as in their graves. Almost coincident with the discovery of America by Europeans they began exchanging with the natives here the wares and products of the old hemisphere for those indigenous to the new. The glittering novelties of civilization traded to the coast Indians, transmitted by barter or reprisal from tribe to tribe, were not long in reaching the Mississippi. Soon the enterprising trader and adventurous *coureur des bois*, and the self-sacrificing Jesuit missionary penetrated far into the interior, taking there various articles of foreign make that, by devious ways, passed into the possession of the red lords of the soil to be, according to their customs, ultimately buried with them. And thus we have indubitable evidence of the ancient aboriginal burial customs, including mound building, having been continued here for some time after intrusion of the civilized white race.

It may be that the interesting relic here presented is quite well known to some of our readers, especially to students of numismatics, or to those versed in the lore of the Catholic church, who will kindly oblige us by information of its probable date, origin and the purpose it was intended to fulfill.

THE ILLINOIS STATE ACADEMY OF SCIENCE.

This institution, organized four years ago by a few of our enthusiastic scientists, is now in flourishing condition. It has issued three volumes of Transactions, and has an active working membership of over 400. Prof. A. R. Crook, Curator of the State Natural History Museum, at Springfield, is the permanent secretary, and the other officers for 1910-11 (elected annually) are, President, John M. Coulter, Chicago; Vice President, R. O. Graham, Bloomington; and Treasurer, J. C. Hessler, Decatur. As other scientific associations, the Academy has no fixed place for holding its annual meetings—which occur in the month of February. The meeting of last February was held at the State University, in Urbana, and the next February meeting will probably be at the Chicago University. The membership fees are one dollar for initiation, and then one dollar annually.

The membership of the Academy is not yet sufficiently large to be divided into sections in its transactions, and its proceedings comprise papers read, discussions and symposiums. Psychiatry is the special science of but one member, Dendrology of one, Parasitology of one, and Archaeology of two. The other sciences are well and ably represented.

The transactions at the annual meetings are varied, and abound in instructive interest. Much study and attention are devoted to the ecology of the Illinois flora and fauna, while chemistry, geology, biology, etc., receive their full share; and the exercises are interspersed with no less interesting popular dissertations on such subjects as "The Chinese Problem," "The Passing of the Prairie Chicken," "Observations on Robin Nests," etc.

It is hoped that the day is not far distant when the people of our State, by their representatives in the Legislature, will provide a much-needed building at the capi-

tal for the home and proper care of the State Museum and the Historical Library with their concomitant guardians and agencies, the State Academy of Science, and the State Historical Society.

ANOTHER LETTER IN RELATION TO THE
JOURNAL OF THE ILLINOIS STATE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

CHICAGO, October 15, 1910.

MRS. JESSIE PALMER-WEBER, *Secretary Illinois State Historical Society*, Springfield, Illinois:

DEAR MADAM—Noting Mr. Worthington's criticism of the *Journal* in the recent number and your invitation for suggestions I, as one small layman, say *keep right on* if you can, just as it is. They are certainly a handsome volume, and when bound as I intend to have mine as soon as this volume is completed, will, with their fine margins (which will naturally cut down some in binding) make a volume of the size of an ordinary law book which does not run too large for the average book case. I do not deem it needful to reiterate my appreciation of them, as I have heretofore "spoken my mind," and have not changed it. As to cutting the leaves, what book lover does not enjoy it and say with Field:

"Oh, let it such a volume be
As in rare copper plates abounds;
Large paper, clean and fair to see,
Uncut, unique, unknown to Lowndes."

Respectfully,

F. H. SMITH.

PROPOSED CELEBRATION OF THE ORGANIZATION OF WOODFORD COUNTY, ILLINOIS, BY THE WOODFORD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

EUREKA, ILL., Oct. 22, 1910.

MRS. JESSIE PALMER-WEBER, *Springfield, Ill.*:

DEAR MADAM— At the last meeting of the Executive Committee, some weeks ago, we decided to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the organization of our county. Herewith I enclose a newspaper clipping in reference thereto. The same article appears in all the papers of the county this week. Proofs were also sent to the Bloomington and Peoria papers. Doubtless they will make mention of the celebration.

I have not made out the program, but will soon have it under way.

I notice from the Journal that Jersey county has already held the celebration of her 71st anniversary. Ours coming in the winter, we can not hope to have anything but a literary program as it seems to me.

Thomas Bullock, the prime mover of the plan to organize Woodford county, and who suggested the name, presented the petition referred to in the within article, in 1840, before the Legislature. I am very anxious to secure the original petition, if possible, a copy will be next best, and I have thought it might be found among the legislative papers, or it may be in the Journal of 1840 or 1841. If it will not require too much searching I would like to ask you to see whether the original petition can not be found.

Later I will send you a program with invitation to be present at the celebration. I hope you may find it possible to be present.

Sincerely,

L. J. FREESE.

COUNTY ANNIVERSARY.

CELEBRATION OF 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORGANIZATION OF
WOODFORD COUNTY.

In 1840, the settlers of Walnut Grove placed a petition before the Legislature for the formation of Woodford county with Versailles as the seat of justice. The bill entitled "An Act for the Formation of the County of Woodford," was signed by the Governor, February 27, 1841. In accordance with this measure, the county, the coming February, will have been formed seventy years. The petition met with so much opposition by the settlers living west of Walnut Grove, who wished to organize a county with Washington as the county seat, and later the removal of the county seat from Versailles to Hanover was so fiercely contested by the people living at the county seat and vicinity, that the whole movement is an interesting chapter in the history of Woodford county.

The Woodford County Historical Society has decided to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the formation of Woodford county with suitable program, and is making active preparation for that occasion.

There are still living in the county and elsewhere a few men and women, then mere boys and girls, who remember the discussions and excitement incident to these events. So far as possible the events will be recounted by these same boys and girls.

The society desires the names of all those living in the county at that time. Please send your names to either of the undersigned. We would also be pleased to learn of incidents that took place in connection with the movement to organize the county or the removal of the county seat to Hanover, or even while Versailles enjoyed the distinction of being the county seat.

The celebration is for the people of the county and those out of the county who may care to attend. We ask the assistance of all. The board of supervisors has al-

ready given substantial aid. May we hear from others,
who have, if only in memory, the information we seek.

L. J. FREESE, *President.*

MISS AMANDA JENNINGS, *Sec.*

Eureka, Ill. October 20, 1910.